

# ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus CR107: Intermediate Critical Reading I

## Course Description

ACES Intermediate Critical Reading I hones students' critical responses to different genres of literature most commonly encountered in academic settings and on state-wide and national exams. Students will become competent in the 7 habits of highly effective readers, which will increase their reading speed, comprehension levels and reading vocabularies. In addition, they will gain familiarity with elements of genre ranging from literary non-fiction to science fiction. Through written, visual and kinesthetic responses, students will acquire: the skill set of effective critical readers, a deep understanding of selected literary texts suitable as evidence for essay writing on state and national exams, an appreciation and enjoyment of literature that is the basis for life-long reading. In addition to instruction time and in-class activities, students will read and keep reading journals outside of class.

This class takes a step-by-step approach to teaching students how to find the important information in sentences, paragraphs and entire articles. All readings are carefully sequenced with the Lexile Framework for Reading (<https://lexile.com/>), a scientific way to match readers with appropriate-level texts. For example, the classic children's book *The Cat in the Hat* has a Lexile level of 260L and is well-suited for students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade-and-younger, whereas Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* has a Lexile level of 860L and is suitable for academically-advanced 4<sup>th</sup>-and-5<sup>th</sup> graders and typical middle-school students. CR107 is organized thematically, featuring readings in the Lexile Range 1200L – 1250L. Successful completion of CR107 prepares students to enter CR108A, where they will master readings up to Lexile level 1350L.

## Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- enhance student's reading comprehension
- master advanced readings in various subjects: literature, science, health, plays, poetry, opinion papers, philosophy, fiction, social science, satire
- prepare students for high-school level Pre-AP/SAT/ACT readings

## Class Structure

- Words-Of-The-Day & Vocabulary Quiz: Begin with words of the day (taken from previous reading) with sentence where it was found
- Major Feature of the day and/or Major Rhetorical Device of the day: Lecture on a major feature or rhetorical device with examples from SAT readings or other passages
- Reading and group work:
  - o Provide a longer passage for students to read
  - o Identify unknown words with context cues
  - o Group work on ideas presented based on Feature/Rhetorical Device
- Study technique/ Vocabulary Game

Homework consists of producing concise notes and text marking, writing explanatory paragraphs and analyzing passages and answering critical thinking questions mirroring those on the SAT and ACT.

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading Passages</b>	<b>Lexile</b>	<b>Homework</b>
Week 1	Classifying and Contrasting	Quebec's Sugar Season Mount Pinatubo New York Buildings	1210	Reading Questions
Week 2	Setting & Point of View Figurative Language	A Day At The Zoo A Drop's Journey The Most Expensive House	1220	Reading Questions
Week 3	Character and Plot Genre and Theme	Cliff Dwellers Developing Possible Solutions; Forecasting	1220	Reading Questions
Week 4	Motif, Alliteration, and Repetition Plot and Sequence	Saints, Snakes, and Pirates Wetlands Zebra Mussels	1220-1225	Writing Assignment
Week 5	Persuasive Essays Debate and Argumentation Author's Purpose	Analysis of the Declaration of Independence The Cooling From The Warmth of Nature	1230	Writing Assignment
Week 6	Identifying Voice and Tone	The International Language The Rise of Oxygen	1240	Reading Questions
Week 7	Assumptions & Inference	Frederick Douglass The Amazon Rain Forest	1240	Reading Questions
Week 8	Cause and Effect Drawing Conclusions	The Mayflower President Roosevelt's Speech to Congress	1240	Take-home Reading
Week 9	Cause and Effect II; Predicting	Everyday Compound The Gender Gap	1240	Reading Questions
Week 10	Comparing and Contrasting	Designing the First Flying Machines; Osceola	1240	Writing Assignment
Week 11	Final Project	Native American Homes Benjamin Franklin	1250	Course Evaluation